UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

2014.2015
SEASON OF EVENTS

Thursday, March 5, 2015
12:10 pm. Walter Hall

THURSDAYS AT NOON
DUO CONCERTANTE

Nancy Dahn, violin
Timonthy Steeves, piano

PROGRAM

Franz Schubert

Violin Sonata in G minor 'Sonatina', D408

i) Allegro guisto
ii) Andante
iii) Menuetto
iv) Allegro moderato

Chan Ka Nin

Incarnation
Commissioned by Duo Concertante with grants from the Canada Council for the Arts and the Toronto Arts Council

In *Incarnation*, the composer imagined what Schubert's music might sound like if he was re-incarnated to the 20th and the 21st century. Themes and accompaniment patterns from Schubert's *Death and the Maiden*, *Erkönig* and *Serenade* were transformed and manifested in this work. This piece serves as a link to the other Schubert compositions in the program.

Franz Schubert

***Rondo Brillant* in B minor, D. 895**

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Next on Thursdays at Noon

March 19, 2015
Vocalists Krisztina Szabó, Lawrence Wiliford and Peter Barnes perform love songs by Brahms and Greer, with Lydia Wong and Steven Philcox, piano.

The Faculty of Music gratefully acknowledges the generous support of our presenting sponsors.

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Biographies

The inscription over Beethoven's "Kreutzer" sonata reads, "in stilo molto concertante," implying that the two performers must be equal and dynamic voices. This notion defines **Duo Concertante**'s artistic relationship. The "Kreutzer" sonata was the first piece the duo played when, in 1997, when they burst into the performance world like "two packages of musical dynamite" (Halifax Chronicle-Herald). For over fifteen years, critics have praised their "artistry, poetry, and impeccable technique" (La Scena Musicale) and "deeply integrated performances that flow naturally as if the music were being created on the spot" (Gramophone).

The Beethoven violin sonatas have remained central to Duo Concertante's repertoire, and their widely acclaimed recording of the cycle, *Beethoven: Complete Sonatas for Violin and Piano*, was recently released on the Marquis Classics label as a three-CD set. Of this ECMA nominated and frequently broadcast recording, Music Toronto's John Terauds says, "these beautiful interpretations are so good right down to the tiniest of details that they deserve to be called a reference in the contemporary performance of these 10 great pieces."

Nancy Dahn, violin, and **Timothy Steeves**, piano, have received the Touring Performers Award (Contact East), as well as Memorial University's prestigious President's Award for Outstanding Research, and were named NLAC Artist of the Year in May 2010. Of their six acclaimed recordings, *Wild Bird* (Centrediscs, 2010), comprises works written especially for the duo by Canadian composers Murray Schafer, Chan Ka Nin, and Kati Agócs, and includes Schafer's *Duo for violin and piano*, which won the 2011 Juno Award in the Classical Composition of the Year category. Duo Concertante's 2009 recording *It Takes Two* features encore pieces arranged by Canadian composer Clifford Crawley and was described as "spectacular" (American Record Guide). The first three CDs—*À Deux*, *Of Heart and Homeland*, and *Wild Honey*—all received nominations for Best Classical Recording at the East Coast Music Awards. Released in 2012, their classical music video "Tico Tico" aired on CTV2.

Duo Concertante have consistently revealed their passion for new music, commissioning a total of twenty new works for violin and piano from many of Canada's leading composers, such as Denis Gougeon, Vincent Ho, Jocelyn Morlock, Kati Agócs, Kelly-Marie Murphy, Alice Ho, Omar Daniel, Andrew MacDonald, Rob Teehan, David Scott, Linda Bouchard, and Jean Lesage. *Wild Honey* and *Wild Bird* consist almost of new Canadian works written for the duo; in 2015 the Duo will give world premières of works by Chan Ka Nin and Andrew Staniland.

Duo Concertante maintain a busy touring schedule, with frequent performances across North America, as well as in Europe and China. They have appeared at Wigmore Hall (London), Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall (New York City), Old First Church (San Francisco), the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (Los Angeles), Roy Thomson Hall and the Four Seasons Performing Arts Centre (Toronto), the National Arts Centre (Ottawa), the Forbidden City Concert Hall (Beijing), and the Chapelle du Bon-Pasteur (Montreal). They perform at music festivals throughout North America, including the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival, Cactus Pear Music Festival, Indian River Festival, Colours of Music Festival, and the Huntsville Festival, and have served as artists-in-residence at the Guelph Spring Festival, the Glenn Gould Professional School in Toronto, and Bishop's University.

Based at Memorial University in St. John's, Dahn and Steeves are energetic, experienced teachers who have given hundreds of master classes and workshops across Canada, in the US, and in China. Their commitment to working with young musicians gave rise to the annual Tuckamore Chamber Music Festival, which they founded in 2000 to bring together young chamber music performers with world-class artists and ensembles for an intensive two weeks of learning and performance.

Activities in 2014-2015 include the world première of a 30-minute work by Andrew Staniland at the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival; a concert/masterclass recital tour of British Columbia, a CD of double concertos by Mendelssohn and Andrew MacDonald, performances of the complete works by Schubert for the Kitchener Waterloo Chamber Music Society as well as concerts in Toronto, Guelph, St. John's, Thunder Bay and Michigan. They will also serve as guest artists in residence at the Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance in May 2015. Duo Concertante will release a two CD set of all six violin and keyboard sonatas by Bach in fall of 2015.

Chan Ka Nin is a distinguished Canadian composer whose extensive repertoire draws on both East and West in its aesthetic outlook. Professor of Theory and Composition at the University of Toronto, he has written in most musical genres and received many national and international prizes, including two JUNO awards, the Jean A. Chalmers Award, the Béla Bartók International Composers' Competition in Hungary, and the Barlow International Competition in the United States. In 2001 he won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Musical for his opera Iron Road, written with librettist Mark Brownell, depicting the 19th-century construction of the Canadian national railroad by Chinese migrant laborers.

Characteristically luminous in texture and exotic in instrumental colors, Prof. Chan's music has been described by critics as "sensuous," "haunting," and "intricate." The composer often draws his inspiration directly from his personal experiences: for example, the birth of one of his daughters, the death of his father, his spiritual quests, or his connection to nature and concern for the environment.

Many prominent ensembles and soloists have performed his music, including the Toronto Symphony, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Calgary Philharmonic, Esprit Orchestra, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Amici Ensemble, Gryphon Trio, Miró Quartet, Purcell Quartet, Amherst Saxophone Quartet, violist Rivka Golani, and cellist Shauna Rolston. His substantial discography includes releases on the CBC, Centrediscs, ATMA, Analekta, Albany, and Summit labels, among others.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Mr. Chan holds twin undergraduate degrees in electrical engineering and music from the University of British Columbia, where he studied composition with Jean Coulthard. He subsequently received Master of Music and Doctor of Music degrees from Indiana University, where he studied with Bernhard Heiden.